

Wesleyan Alumnae

May, 1937

THE WESLEYAN ALUMNAE

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Vol. XIII

May, 1937

No. 2

The Wesleyan Alumnae Association

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Macon, Georgia, under the Act of March 3, 1879

The Loyalty Fund

Contributions are coming in to The Alumnae Office for the 1937 Loyalty Fund, to be used next year for scholarships to outstanding high school girls. *Do not forget to put Wesleyan into your budget this month, for whatever amount you feel that you can give.* And if your gift must be small, remember that many small gifts make a large one, and every symbol of alumnae loyalty is received with appreciation by the college.

SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The classes between 1920 and 1936 have united in three groups to give three special scholarships to Wesleyan: a Golden Heart

Scholarship, a Tri-K Scholarship, and a Round Table Scholarship. Eighty-three "Class Fund Agents" in these classes have worked faithfully since March, writing to their classmates about the plan. The three scholarships are growing rapidly.

Classes before 1920 are sending their contributions to one Scholarship Fund, to be administered through the office of Wesleyan's president, Dr. Anderson, to outstanding high school girls. Last year we helped 26 girls. How many can we help this year?

Margaret McEvoy continues the \$100 scholarship in memory of her friend, Pauline Logan Findlay, and expects to continue it as long as she lives.

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Nominee for Alumnae Trustee

By Eliza (Hill) Martin, A.B. '06

Ruth (Houser) Garrett, A.B. 1918, is the nominee for alumnae trustee to succeed Anabel Horn, A.B. '06, whose term expires this year.

A young matron of strong personality, splendid mental attainment, charm, and poise, with an intense devotion to all that concerns Wesleyan, she will be a real asset to her Alma Mater as trustee.

As president of the Miami Wesleyan Club, she built up a strong organization there, creating interest and enthusiasm, and influencing fine high school students to attend Wesleyan.

She was chairman of the Fort Valley Organization during the "2 - 7 - 0" campaign, and made a fine showing for that section, working until the time she married. William Jennings Bryan attended her wedding as best man, and she had him stay over and lecture the next evening to help the campaign.

Her heritage, too, fits her for the trusteeship. Her mother, Sara (Turner) Houser, is a Wesleyan alumna of the class of 1896, daughter of a Methodist minister and author of note. Her father, Mr. Lee Houser, is a leader in his community in church and school activities, enriching Methodism with his life and work as well as with his gifts.

In 1924 she married the Reverend W. O. Garrett, much beloved pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Miami, and one of the outstanding ministers of the South, and spent seven years of beautiful, useful service with him. After his death she returned with her two children to make her home in Fort Valley. There she has made a place

in the religious, civic, and social life of the community. Her vision of service has made her indispensable. Her duties as a daughter and as a mother she considers a privilege. Her little son, Billy Lee Garrett, is ten and her daughter, Hazel Houser Garrett, 6.

Wesleyan is to be congratulated upon having the love, loyalty, and interest of Ruth (Houser) Garrett. She will mean much to the college in the capacity of alumnae trustee. In the words of the Psalmist, she is truly: "The King's Daughter—all glorious within; her clothing is of wrought gold."



RUTH (HOUSER) GARRETT, A.B. '18
with her little daughter, Hazel, a future
"Wesleyanne"

Leon Perdue Smith

By Dr. Dice R. Anderson, President

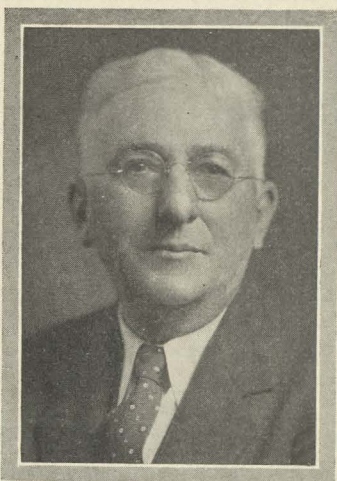
Born December 24th, 1869, Bachelor of Arts, of Emory College in 1892; Master of Science of the University of Chicago in 1915; Instructor in Latin and Science at LaGrange College, where his distinguished father, Rufus Smith was President; Dean of LaGrange College 1900 to 1912; Professor of Chemistry and Geology in Wesleyan College from 1912; Vice-President 1918 to 1929; Dean 1930 to his death on May fourth, 1937.

Scholar; friend; Christian gentleman.

Dean Leon Perdue Smith was associated with Wesleyan College for twenty-five years, this year rounding out his quarter of a century of service. During this whole time he measured up to every responsibility and won the unlimited respect and devotion of faculty and students. To say that we are grieved at his passing away from us and that we miss him and shall ever miss him is expressing all too inadequately the feelings in the hearts of all of us at Wesleyan. I am sure also that the thousands of daughters of Wesleyan who

came under his influence grieve with us and will also miss him greatly. His friends and associates in other institutions, in church, and social activities will also feel keenly the vacancy caused by the death of Dean Smith.

I want to be personal. I loved him like a brother. I found him here. He had been for many years honored professor, for twelve years was Vice-President of Wesleyan, and had been Dean only one year when I arrived in the summer of 1931. Most of his service, therefore, as Dean, was performed under my administration. Dean and President seemed made for each other. He took me to his heart and threw the weight of his influence into my establishment at the College. We were



LEON PERDUE SMITH

close friends and understanding colleagues. He had all the qualities I wanted in a dean, and those that I wanted in a friend. Our educational views were similar. We discussed everything connected with the college freely, frankly; sometimes we counselled many times a day, each going to the other with our difficult problems. During six full years of constant, intimate, daily, and absolutely free discussion of every conceivable college matter, there was never a word spoken between us that either could regret, or a feeling in

either's heart that was not the soul of loyalty and friendship toward each other.

He was experienced and wise; generous and tolerant; he was industrious, never asking to be relieved of any duty and accepting without reluctance any suggestion as to plan or work; he was constructive and creative. I have never in my experience been associated with any colleague with whom I found it a greater pleasure to work, for whom I had greater respect, or more genuine and tender affection. And I miss him and I shall miss him as my dear friend and most valued associate.

I rejoiced in his intellectual attainments, in his wisdom, in his creative mind, and especially in the recent contribution which he made. I am happy that he knew of the

recognition which it had received. There is something heroic and memorable, of high moral as well as scientific value, in his persistent and detailed pursuit of his study for weeks while lying on a bed of illness, measuring the discoloration of flints, thousands of them, making record of his findings, and patiently thinking out his problem. I am happy too at the tender love which his students and colleagues had and have for

him, as well as in the esteem he had won in the minds of scholarly and scientific men.

His service goes on. We want to live such lives as he lived. We will love the College and labor for it as he did and as he wanted us to do. Spirits like his make a college and memories of great intellectual and moral heroes such as Dean Smith's are a part of its eternal heritage. They are a part of the living College, always.



DEAN SMITH'S HOUSE AT RIVOLI

In the spring of the present college year, foundations were laid for Dean Smith's new house at Rivoli, just across the road from Wesleyan. In May the house was completed.

To all who loved Dean Smith that house, finished just too late for him to enjoy living in it, would be a sad sight except for two memories. One is of the joy he had all this year in watching it grow, in tramping over his plot of ground with the air of a gentleman of property, of telling us his plans and dreams.

The other is the memory of a chapel talk he made one day this spring when we were feeling anxious about the welfare of Wesleyan, during days of financial stress.

"You have all seen my new house going up across the road," he told us. "It is an indication of my faith in the future of the college. I want to spend my old age as near as possible to the college I have loved for so long. You do not think I would build a house there unless I believed firmly that the view from my front porch would always be one of a beautiful and flourishing Wesleyan, do you?"

We look across at his little house now, therefore, and think, not that it is a place where he will never be, but that it is a memorial to the faith of a very wise man in the future of the college we love!

Mrs. Florrie Cook White Retires

A Message From Mrs. White to Her Girls

Dear Girls:

Appreciating the privilege of sending you a greeting through your Alumnae Magazine, I want to extend to each and all of you, my girls, from the class of 1906 through the class of 1937, an invitation to come to Commencement and let us have one more joyous time together in our Wesleyan home.

Realizing that a time comes when the old should give place to the young, I felt it best to retire. As I leave, I carry with me love and loyalty and sweet memories of my Wesleyan children and grandchildren, as sincere as any mother ever felt.

God bless you all!

If you cannot come back, send us a greeting.

Affectionately yours,

Florrie Cook White

Wesleyan College,
May 8, 1937.

Wesleyan recently heard with surprise, and with something like dismay, that Mrs. Florrie Cook White, completing this commencement her 32nd year as matron, is to retire.

At first we said, "We cannot possibly do without her!" She has been so intimate a part of the college life for so many years that we could not picture the Wesleyan Infirmary without her.

She herself, however, would allow none of that attitude. With the same firmness and good humor with which she has often tackled cases of freshman homesickness, she made us feel that there is a proper time for everything, that this is the year for her to retire, and that's that.

"I am leaving," she says, "because I have been here 32 happy years, and that is long enough. I go in good health, in fine spirits, with nothing but love and loyalty in my heart for Wesleyan. It will always be more

like home to me than anywhere else in the world."

A WESLEYAN FAMILY

Mrs. White's father was a former teacher and member of the Board of Trustees of Wesleyan; her mother was a graduate; her two sisters attended Wesleyan; her brother, Dr. E. F. Cook, is a trustee today; her daughter, Bettie Lou, was a student from sub-freshman through post-graduate in music, and was for nine years after her graduation a teacher at Wesleyan; her son, Goodrich, was a teacher of psychology at the college one year; her grandsons, Goodrich, Jr., and Chappell White, were mascots of the classes of '25 and '27 respectively.

MRS. WHITE'S YEARS AT WESLEYAN

In 1905 Mrs. White's brother, a member of the Methodist conference and a trustee of Wesleyan, remarked to his sister and a

Methodist minister, the former Rev. J. R. King, father of Nannaline (King) Byrd, A.B., '06, who sat with them on the porch of her home in Newnan, Ga., "Florrie, at Wesleyan Commencement this year I wished for the first time that you were not my sister."

"Why?" she asked in surprise.

"Because they need a matron at the college," he answered. "You would be fine for the position, but of course I could not suggest my own sister."

Nothing further was said, but the next morning Mrs. White received a telegram offering her the position. The other minister had telephoned the president the night before!

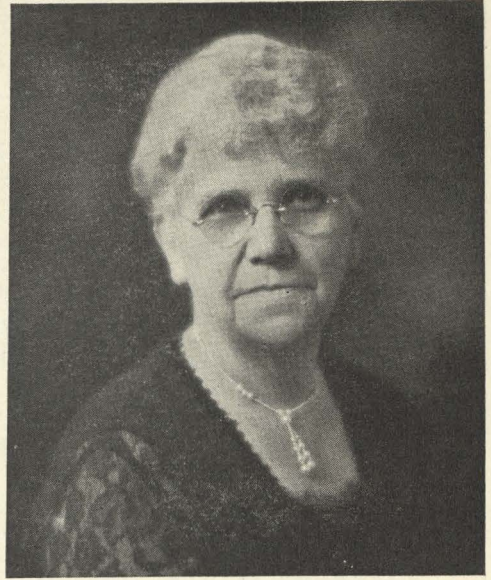
Thus it was that Mrs. White came to Wesleyan. Her son was just entering Emory University that year. He is today Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Dean of the Graduate School of that university. Her daughter was too young to enter Wesleyan, was tutored privately and later entered sub-freshman, graduating with the class of 1911. She holds an executive position today with the R. H. Donnelly Company of Chicago.

Mrs. White's duties brought her in close touch with the students, and she is beloved by unnumbered alumnae all over the nation. This year 39 members of the student body are daughters of Mrs. White's "old girls".

WHAT HER PRESIDENTS SAY

Mrs. White served Wesleyan under the administration of five presidents. The first, Judge DuPont Guerri, died in 1920. From every living president, and from the widow of Judge Guerri, Mrs. White has received messages of the highest praise and appreciation since her resignation was announced.

At the time of the announcement Mrs. Dice R. Anderson, wife of the present Wesleyan president, was in Texas, attending a celebration in honor of her father, Dr. Hardy, who retires this commencement as president of Mary Hardin-Baylor College. She wrote:



MRS. FLORRIE COOK WHITE

"My father's attitude has reminded me of you, and I am glad of the privilege of knowing two such people with so much understanding, courage, and good sportsmanship. I have heard you say many times that you did not want to wait until you *had* to go; that you wanted to leave while you are still useful. I see now what it means for one to retire while he is loved, respected, and not broken down, either in body or spirit. I know the fine inner qualities which such a step demands, and I know that you and my father possess those qualities. You are, and always will be, a part of Wesleyan."

Three issues of the college annual have been dedicated to Mrs. White, The Zig Zag of 1906; Veterropts of 1919 and 1930.

The words of one of these tributes give the alumnae feeling toward Mrs. White; "To one who has created for herself an endeared place in the life of the college and a lasting shrine in the hearts of the girls who have come under her influence."

PROGRAM

Commencement, 1937

FRIDAY, MAY 28

In the afternoon, arrival of reunioners and other returning alumnae

4:00 P. M. Rivoli Parlors—Phi Delta Phi Address, by Dr. Sara Branham, Alumnae Trustee of Washington, D. C.

Reunion Class Suppers

8:30 P. M. Conservatory Chapel—"The Nursery Maid of Heaven", a Miracle Play by Thomas Wood Stevens, produced by the Department of Dramatic Art.

SATURDAY, MAY 29

10:30 A. M.—Conservatory Chapel—Annual Meeting of the National Alumnae Association, Anne (Bates) Haden, Presiding.

"Thirty Years at Wesleyan", honoring Mrs. Florrie Cook White, retiring matron, by all of her girls.

"Beginning of the Second Hundred Years", Skit by the Students, written by Rose Peagler of the class of 1937.

Presentation of New National Officers and Trustees.

Message from the meeting of the Board of Trustees.

1:30 P. M. Alumnae Luncheon—Hotel Dempsey (75c per plate).
Special guests, Toast-Mistress, Music.

5:00 P. M. Alumnae Tea—Rivoli Parlors.

8:30 P. M.—Conservatory Soiree and Graduation Exercises, Conservatory Chapel.

SUNDAY, MAY 30

11:30 A. M.—Commencement Sermon, Dr. J. C. Broomfield, Fairmont, West Virginia, President of the General Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church. Subject: "The Supreme Court of Spiritual Appeal". (In Gymnasium at Rivoli).

MONDAY, MAY 31

11:00 A. M. Graduation Exercises (In Gymnasium at Rivoli).
Baccalaureate Address, Dr. D. M. Key, President of Millsaps College.